

Greenfield, Kilgobbin, Co. of Dublin
July 29. 1860

Dear Mr May - I had a letter from you yesterday enclosing a much
larger one for Eliza Wigham which I forwarded immediately. By
the way I may as well enable you also are to correct, to become
the correct. You need not direct to the care of Henry Wigham
when you write to Eliza. Her father, Henry, has been living for
years in Dublin, and Eliza has at 5 Gray Street with her father
John Wigham and his step mother Jane, who you ~~you~~ know is a
staunch abolitionist & sister of William Lusk of Glasgow of
whom we used to hear more of late ~~you~~ formerly than of late
years. The marriage of Mrs Jane Wigham has been a very
happy one, as she is beloved & respected by her husband's children
as if they were their own mother. When John Wigham wife
died he was left a widower with two daughters, two sons. Mary
(now Mrs Edmonstone, a widow in Dublin) was the eldest, then only
12 years old. John (now with Henry in partnership with Mary
in the homefurnishing & manufactory trade in Dublin, and all very
prosperous) was next an infant. Mary became mistress of
the house & managed admirably. She is a remarkably admirable
woman, with a fresh, open, innocent, cordial face that does
you good to look at. She is rich, healthy, hearty & good natured,
making all around her take who come within her reach as happy as
she can. Rich and poor make the same to her - and she is the
best of women to a very large circle. You know what I think of
Eliza. I should add that Mary has two sons & three daughters -
the eldest of the daughters very clever having carried off 1 don't
know how many gold medals & other prizes at an asper class
school in Edinburgh. - There now, if I were to go on giving you
sketches of all your friends - ~~when~~ in these parts, what a letter might
I not fill up. One passage in your letter of yesterday has amused
me and set me thinking a good deal. It is that which you
mention Mrs May's high estimate, in which I quite agree, of the
value of a cheerful, sunny, kindly, temperamental - and you mention
specimens (in which I wish I could also coincide) that I am the happy
owner. Now let me diverge again. I suppose almost all who are
in the habit of expressing opinions have some that may almost be

called "cant opinions" they are so apt to suspect them whenever they
can lay them in. Now one of my "cant" sentiments is this, that
we are apt to draw large conclusions from small premises. And one
of my illustrative stories is that of ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~then~~ William Dawes of Berlin,
who was in London in 1840, at the World's Convention, ~~where~~ ^{where} was the
first American friend I ever had, besides Dublin, he sat at the table
of "my set" who were all teetotlers, & when he was leaving us he re-
marked that he was greatly pleased to find teetotalism so well
established in Dublin, since he had been at so many houses of
so many people so various in their modes of living [from James
Haughton, a rich man, to myself & my brother who have no wealth
to boast of] and that he found them all total abstinents. I was
obliged to tell him that he could probably not have found in ~~any~~
any circle of equal extent in Dublin, an equal number of
abstinents. Then, again, if Mrs May and Miss May & yourself
were to come to us here at Greenfield, I greatly expect a visit you
would probably so away quite assured that I was quite as sunny,
cheerful & kindly as you had supposed. But why? Simply because
I think your society & conversation would be exactly to my taste. There
is no number of people on earth for whom I have so much respect
admiration & I may add affection as the American abolitionists.
I like them & I like to be acting with them & for them to the best of
my ability. It is like wine to me to have your society & in such
intercourse I am in a state of delightful ~~and~~ ^{excitation} or intoxication
which is not usual with me. Naturally, I have small hope
& am apprehensive & anxious. I have a great capacity for the enjoy-
ment of congenial society - but I am a contented & thus cuts me off
from much intercourse with others & is on the score of present en-
joyment, a great disadvantage.

About the Librarians you have sent to my care. Those for London,
Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dublin, Bristol, & Manchester have been sent forward.
That for Leeds is addressed - but not sent - as I am waiting to hear
from Mr. Hornes from Wakefield as to whether I had better send a
set to them or to Sheffield. I think, however, even if I should send
to Wakefield, I will make a selection for ~~Wakefield~~ ^{Sheffield} Sheffield which
I will send to the care of Mr. Charles Woolton (a real saint in that
town, though a Unitarian) as I have already done to Waterford to

care of my sister Mrs Maria Waring Palmer, who you will be glad
to know is most happily married to a most excellent man of large-
minded disposition with herself. She has her heart in the cause &
will be sure to make a good use of the books I have sent her.
Of the smaller pamphlets, after sending many duplicates with
each application, many copies will still remain which I
will take care to get off in way open. As to the reports I
have sent about 20 with each parcel of books - but I retained
a good many which I have not covered (with the end open) for
book post, and I send them off whenever I hear of or think of
a good address. I am most anxious to get them into the
hands of writers for the press, authors, or newspaper editors.
I have applied to some for assistance in this way - and in many -
but in good manner. Have you ever heard of Anthony Trollope (I
believe a son of the clergy in the U.S. notorious Mrs Trollope, who put before
the monotony of her dreary books of travels in raw country) - he is
author of Baruch's Towers & several wonderfully clever novels. Well,
he lately published a book on "The British West Indies & the Spanish
Main" or some such title - one of the raciest, funniest, most
abundant books I ever read. I enjoyed it immensely. [I have one
quality in great perfection - a great capacity for enjoyment] He pro-
fesses to dislike Slavery as much as any body - but he declares it to be a
fact that the West Indian negro has little capacity for civilization -
that he cares for little but undolent enjoyment of existence - and is
destitute of the higher intellectual qualities. The West Indies have
retrograded since freedom as far as productivity. Nothing can
save them except a large immigration of Chinese, Coolies, Portuguese
&c. The negro can work, but will not, for they would nothing but to live
with as little labour as possible. However he describes us in a very
low condition. A great deal of what he says seems to me to agree with
what I would suppose from what I know or think I know of the negro
character. I don't think Trollope has any leaning to Slavery, but that he
is determined to report things as he finds them. I think too that the
better appeal Slavery is to be brought on the ground that it barbarizes
the white race - and that liberty will certainly & of itself elevate the
black. However, I send a Report to Anthony Trollope, and have a letter
beseeing him to read it in the light of the remarks I have just subscribed.

I had a very civil note in reply, thanking me for the Report, promising to read it, & saying that in speaking as he did of the Jamaica negro he had only stated what appeared to him to be the truth. I also sent a Report I had an answer from General Thompson, author of the Antislavery Law Catechism, and a veteran reformer of great eminence. He was for some years an M.P. and is very sensible of the new appreciation of his former constituents. But this should not surprise us at all even if he were also a free man. Constitutions are rarely remarkable for discrimination in the choice of their representatives. Miss Remond supplied me with many names - but they were chiefly ladies & the Report is no much more likely to be read by men than by women in these latitudes. I have sent to Miss Martineau, Mr Chambers, Lord Brougham & other two letters to mention. Wm F. Fothergill whom I mentioned sent me some names but he thinks that liberal men are more guilty than ignored in this question in England. If so, this must be attributed to the past influence they are likely to have with travelled Americans, plausible, intelligent, often educated & wealthy, & almost invariably proslavery - or what you & I would call proslavery.

Such a season as we have had. Nearly a day without rain - & very little sunshine - the thermometer rarely above 60. The post refers very slowly & the post for the West Coast is by no means cheering. Last year we had weeks almost months together without a drop of rain or a cloud. This year we had hardly had one cloudy day. My wife sailed yesterday ^{morning} for Holyhead intending to reach London by 11 p.m. She was accompanied by her sister Mrs Harvey of Watford who had never crossed the sea before she wished to see London - so they will have a pleasant week among the lakes. My eldest son is on a visit to relations 100 miles north - my son Richard & the 100 miles south. My two daughters gone out to driving a little fish pony car to bring some friends to drive with in this pleasant survey - & Mrs Corcoran is alone in the house by himself.

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A little more than three months ago, hearing from
Mr J. G. Horner of Wexford that he was in poor health
I invited him to visit me at my home about six
miles from Dublin. He came and stayed about
ten miles - & then intending to go home by way
of Bristol he took a letter to my sister in law
Mrs Maria (Waring) Palmer, ~~was~~ in Waterford.
With his three husbands he remained about seven
miles - so that the family had a good chance
of knowing him. He is an Irishman nearly
five & twenty, but he looks like a boy of fifteen
having no beard & a remarkably girlish face.
He took with the ladies wherever he went - but
the gentlemen did not care so much about
him. He is a good abolitionist & very active
up to the cause - but some how or other we
did not get on harmoniously together - I did
not feel at home with him - as I could with
Pillsbury, or H. C. Wright, or S. Thompson - not
to mention myself. Now I am in Chesterfield
~~but~~ and therefore should be able to make allow-
ance for the want of French in them. Still I was
somewhat repelled by a certain intense
Yorkshire bourgeoisie in him - of which York-
shiremen are proud - but which came rather
oddly from such an effeminate looking man
when addressing me so much older than he
is as is your Dublin correspondent. He was
a good deal disturbed by ~~not~~ ~~presenting~~ my taking
such an interest in the Thompson & Douglas
pamphlet which he regards as a needless
stirring of a subject of controversy which I regard

an an important help to a right under-
standing of the subject of American Slavery.
I know these Leeds Young Men are generally
Zealous good fellows - but they are young, &
our flames have to be very rude as I have
repeatedly found.

I have now dispatched the bulk of the
books to all the places you named, with some
to Watford which you did not name. I
have some few duplicate books & pamphlets
left - and these I will take fitting
opportunities to distribute. If many
of the smaller tracts I send several copies
to each place. The whole enterprise con-
nected with the distribution & forwarding
will be very trifling - as I lost no oppor-
tunity of seeing you & Henry.

As to Miss Griffiths we have had letters passing
and repassing between us - but I do not
think we shall see her for some time. I had
a note from H. Martineau yesterday telling me
she was obliged to decline seeing all
strangers & to include Miss F. who had called
with that view. She is extremely feeble & is
thus as remarkable an instance of bodily
delicacy with undiminished mental vigor
activity as the world has ever seen. Miss
F. has had several invitations & offers of hospi-
tality from various quarters so that I have
no doubt she will have an agreeable time

I don't know whether in the beginning of
this letter (written on the colored paper some
time ago) that the summer has been hitherto
wet & cold to a degree such as this like
has not been known for nearly 60 years.
It was difficult to make hay, & the fruit
& grain find it difficult to ripen. The bar-
ometer is generally low & the thermometer
rarely higher than 60. We have had rain
in July & August - and a few days ago there
was (I read in the papers) two inches of
snow on some of the Yorkshire hills. When
W. L. S. was here in 1846 he had a great time
laughing at our wet weather - no day without
a shower - but this year has been worse for
we have had so very little sunshine.

Aug. 11 - My wife has returned from her visit to
London where she saw Thompson, wonderfully
recovered from the prostration caused by his
visit to India - her son in law Chapman whom
she thinks a ~~good~~ fellow with great tenacity
of purpose - His daughter, Miss Chapman, a very
attractive woman though not in the inferior
sense of mere fleshly beauty.

Did I say or find to say that a number
of the spots are still on hand - ready
covered for the post so that whenever an
appropriate name occurs I can forward
it by affixing 2 Queen's heads.

Mr Webb saw Dr Chenevix and was very
favorably impressed by the man though
not thinking very highly of him as a mere
orator. For the mission made great efforts
to induce him to ~~stay~~ delay his tour in
Switzerland in order to attend a great
tricentenary celebration of the Reformation
to be held shortly in Edinburgh. This he
was unable to do when not disinclined to
do, by the opposition of a sister of his own with
whom Mrs Webb has been travelling. They
seemed disappointed & said by so doing he
would derange all their plans. I heard
also that he was present with S. Thompson
at a meeting of Congregational Ministers in
London who received him warmly & agreed
to make the way clear for him on his
return from the Continent.

Yours affectionately

Rich^d D Webb

I would be very glad when next you write
if you would let me know whether your
health is improved & how you enjoy your lecture

Rev. J. May, Junr

The Standard & Liberator which are now directed to Joseph

A. Horner, Wakefield, he would wish to have directed as follows

177, GREAT BRUNSWICK STREET,

Printing Office,

Joseph A Horner, Esq.

Three Mill Lane
Bromley by Bow
London.